

LACKAWANNA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Director John Wolf
Department of Public Safety
714 Ridge Road
Lackawanna, NY 14218

Dear Director,

It is with great pride that I submit to you the annual report of the Lackawanna Fire Division for the year ending December 31, 2021.

This year the Lackawanna Fire Department continued to feel the effects from the Coronavirus pandemic. The department experienced 16 incidents of employees testing positive for the virus resulting in 133 days of lost time. The firefighters wore their masks and maintained social distance while working and continued to disinfect and clean the firehouses and vehicles preventing a greater loss from infection. Restrictions and precautions remain in place and are frequently updated as information from the CDC and the NYS Department of Health is made available. The City and the Fire Department reached a contract agreement that will provide suitable wages and benefits for several years to come.

Lackawanna Fire Division responded to 3,699 calls in 2021, which is 408 more calls than last year. Of the 3,699 calls, 2,639 were for emergency medical services, accounting for 71% of our total calls. We responded to 106 fires, which is 3 higher than last year. We also had 486 false alarms, which is up slightly from last year.

The Department hired 1 new firefighter in 2021 who will attend the Buffalo Fire Training Academy in February of 2022. When this new Firefighter graduates from the academy, he will be a NYS Certified Firefighter along with an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and will immediately be put to work on the trucks.

The Fire Marshal has been inspecting the required properties within the city along with enforcing Executive Orders pertaining to the Coronavirus pandemic. He has conducted approximately 200 inspections over the past year.

The Fire Department also has several improvement projects in the works that will enhance the well being of the Firefighters and citizens of the City of Lackawanna.

In closing, I would like to thank the Mayor and the members of the City Council for your support of the Fire Department. I also wish to extend my gratitude and respect to the Firefighters for their dedication and professionalism which is the trademark of the Lackawanna Fire Department.

Respectfully submitted,

James J. Fino
Fire Chief

Organization

The Fire Department is a Division within the Department of Public Safety. It is headed by the Fire Chief and it is divided into the following bureaus:

1. **Firefighting Bureau**- which is supervised by a commissioned officer, who is responsible for the extinguishment of fire, the saving of life and property from fire and the performance of various public services of an emergency and non-emergency nature.
2. **Fire Prevention Bureau**- which is supervised by the Fire Marshal, who is responsible for the inspection of potential fire hazards, the abatement of existing fire hazards and the conducting of an educational fire prevention program.
3. **Training Bureau**- which is supervised by the Municipal Training Officer, who is responsible for all training required by local, state and federal regulations and any training deemed necessary for the proper conduct of the Department.

The Department operates on a four platoon system with a company at each of the three firehouses. A Captain is in charge of the platoon and an individual company. There are two Lieutenants on a platoon, each in charge of an individual company and firehouse. The work schedule is 24 hours on duty and 72 hours off duty, with platoon change at 8:00 AM.

The Department operates out of three firehouses. Each firehouse has one company operating a piece of apparatus. For alarms of fire, all three companies respond. For EMS calls the individual company responds in their district.

- **Station #1**, 55 Ridge Road, covers essentially the 1st Ward for EMS calls.
 - It is manned by a Lieutenant and two firefighters.
 - A 2013 Rosenbauer Pumper, designated **E1**, is based there. It has a 1500 gallon per minute pump and carries 750 gallons of water for a quick attack.
- **Station #2**, 1630 Abbott Road, covers essentially the 3rd and 4th Wards for EMS calls.
 - It is manned by a Lieutenant and one firefighter.
 - A 2006 American LaFrance 100' Aerial Platform, designated **L6**, is based there. It has a 2000 gallon per minute pump and a 300 gallon water tank. Due to the size of the truck and the many dead end streets in the 3rd and 4th Wards, a 2009 Ford F-350, designated **R2**, answers EMS calls in place of the ladder truck.
 - The Fire Chief's Office is attached to this firehouse. The Fire Chief answers calls in a 2017 Ford Explorer, designated **L5**.
- **Station #3**, 2990 South Park Avenue, covers essentially the 2nd Ward for EMS calls.
 - It is manned by a Captain and two firefighters.
 - A 2020 E-One Pumper, designated **E3**, is based there. It has a 1500 gallon per minute pump and a 750 gallon water tank with a 20 gallon foam tank.
 - A 2017 Ford Explorer, designated **L9**, is based here for use by the Fire Marshal.
 - The dispatching center for the fire department is located at Station #3. It is manned by one firefighter.

The Fire Department has three reserve apparatus used in cases of a 2nd alarm or when front line apparatus is undergoing repair. **E33** is a 1996 Spartan Pumper with a 1500 gallon per minute pump and a 750 gallon water tank. **E11** is a 1997 Spartan Pumper with a 1500 gallon per minute pump and a 750 gallon water tank. **L4** is a 1988 Simon which has a 100' aerial platform with a 1500 gallon per minute pump and a 250 gallon water tank.

The City has agreed to issue a capital bond in the amount of 1.2 million dollars to purchase a new aerial platform truck. This new truck will replace the 2006 American LaFrance Aerial Platform which will then be used as a reserve Aerial truck. The department will then sell the 1988 Simon platform.

Firefighting Bureau

In 2020 the Lackawanna Fire Department responded to 3,291 total calls. This is a **126** call increase from last year. **Emergency Medical Service (EMS) calls accounted for 71% of the total number of calls with a total count of 2,330 calls.**

Year	Total Calls	EMS Calls	Fires	False Alarms	# of Personnel
2021	3699	2639	106	486	50
2020	3291	2330	103	457	49
2019	3165	2215	76	460	46
2018	2915	2040	46	422	48
2017	2881	2010	28	400	50
2016	3006	2096	27	418	50
2015	3101	2209	31	408	47
2014	2877	2090	40	343	51
2013	2764	2093	43	323	48
2012	2796	2066	49	335	44

Of the 486 false alarms, only 10 were malicious in nature. The majority of false alarms were unintentional.

Types of False Alarms in 2020	Number of Incidents
Malicious, Mischievous in Nature	10
System Malfunction	97
Unintentional, Accidental in Nature	368
Other False Alarms	11

Station #3 on South Park Ave. was the busiest station making 2149 runs in 2021. Station #2 on Abbott Rd. had 1,362 runs and Station #1 on Ridge Rd. had 1,198 runs.

There were 22 injuries (not including COVID) to Department personnel throughout 2021 with a total lost time of 15 days and 132 days of light duty.

Fire Prevention Bureau

The Fire Marshal continued to perform various inspections throughout 2021. These inspections were for fire code and safety violations and included inspections of multiple dwellings, businesses, new construction, schools, daycares, elevators and entertainment licenses.

The Fire Marshall is also responsible for inspecting 22 Baker Victory buildings and more than 350 units located in the senior living facilities within the city.

He also assisted in the daily operations of the Code Enforcement Department due to an employee out on sick leave.

The Lackawanna Fire Department provides public education to schools and businesses in the city. The fire prevention program is designed to inform young students about fire, and to prepare them in the case of an emergency. It is also an opportunity for the students to become familiar with firefighters and their equipment. For businesses the department offers fire extinguisher training as well as general fire safety.

The 2021 school year offered the department the opportunity to visit Lackawanna Public Schools, Global Concepts Charter School, Baker Victory School, and Our Lady of Victory School and several Day Care facilities.

Training Bureau

Under the guidance of the Municipal Training Officer, each member was offered over 100 hours of training in such areas as Firefighter Safety, Hazardous Materials, Accident Victim Extrication and Emergency Medical Services

Grants

The Fire Department received no Grants in 2021

The Fire Department has submitted an Assistance to Firefighter Grant through FEMA requesting funding to replace all Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and all breathing air cylinders. This equipment is more than 13 years old and the breathing air cylinders will be unusable in less than 2 years.

Through the years, the Fire Department has received the following grants:

2002	\$48,900	Exercise Equipment for all three firehouses
2005	\$650,000	New Aerial Ladder- Ladder 6
2006	\$12,200	Equipment for trucks
2006	\$3,350	4 children's fire prevention videos, brochures, 20 personnel presentations
2007	\$9,975	(300) Smoke/CO Detectors, brochures
2008	\$150,334	(22) SCBA's, (22) Bottles, RIT Pack, Air Fill Station/Compressor
2008	\$5,000	Generator Station #1
2009	\$27,476	Equipment for trucks
2009	\$9,500	various children's fire prevention material
2009	\$21,675	O ² Generating System & Fill Station
2010	\$162,892	(1)Base Station, (32) Portables, (8) Mobile Radios, (8) MDT's
2010	\$14,173	Replacement of all lights w/ energy efficient lighting- all 3 firehouses
2011	\$280,000	New Pumper- Engine 3
2011	\$458,752	4 new hires through SAFER grant (2 years salary + benefits)
2014	\$1,000	Purchase eight 5 gallon pails of F500 Suppression Agent
2014	\$11,905	Pak Tracker System for SCBA's
2014	\$536,324	4 new hires through SAFER grant (2 years salary + benefits)
2015	\$24,762	Washer/Drying System for PPE, Respirator Fit Test System
2017	\$50,000	Rescue Vehicle (L5), Recording System
2017	\$60,835	Fire hose, attack monitors, training equipment, EMS lifting devices

The department has saved the City over \$2,500,000 by aggressively pursuing grant opportunities for needed equipment and manpower.

Member Activities

For the 25th straight year, a Christmas Food Drive was held by members of the Lackawanna Professional Firefighter's Union, Local 3166. 12 families were helped this year, receiving food, clothing and gift certificates totaling over \$2,800. To date, over 330 Lackawanna families have been helped during the Christmas season with over \$47,000 being raised.

- Members of the department held several Child Car Seat Safety checks providing assistance and education to parents of children in the proper installation and use of child car seats.
- The Fire Department also participated in the National Night Out handing out Fire Safety items and providing instruction on the use of fire extinguishers to all in attendance.
- We also partnered with the American Red Cross to install smoke detectors and educate city residents on the safe escape from a house fire.
- During the summer months members visited the city playgrounds with the fire trucks providing demonstrations and education for the residents at the playgrounds.
- We were also in attendance at the Halloween party at Abbott Lanes displaying the fire truck and answering any questions people may have had.
- For the first time in many years our annual boot drive benefitted the local Make-A-Wish Foundation. We were able to collect and donate \$11,000 to this wonderful cause.

Anticipated Fire Department Projects (not for public information)

Senator Tim Kennedy has awarded the Fire Department \$235,000 which will be used to construct a fire department training facility off of Steelawanna in the City's first ward. This facility will consist of a 3 story training tower, a roof simulator, a structure used for search and rescue, several fire props and a smoke machine to simulate true fire conditions.

The Fire Department was awarded \$210,000 from Assemblyman Pat Burke for a new rescue vehicle (\$50,000) and for new turnout gear and cancer screening for all members (\$160,000).

Erie County Legislator John Gilmore committed \$83,000 for the Fire Department dispatch center. This money will be used to install a secondary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and a computer aided dispatch (CAD) system providing a backup to the main dispatch center located in City Hall.

2021 Incident Breakdown

			# Civilian Fire Casualties	
	FIRES IN STRUCTURES BY FIXED PROPERTY USE (OCCUPANCY)	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	DEATHS	INJURIES
1	Private Dwellings (1 or 2 family), including mobile homes (FPU 419)	25	1	0
2	Apartments (3 or more families) (FPU 429)	46	0	0
3	Hotels and Motels (FPU 449)	0	0	0
4	All Other Residential (dormitories, boarding houses, tents, etc.) (FPU 400, 439, 459-499)	3	0	0
5	TOTAL RESIDENTIAL FIRES (Sum of lines 1 through 4)	74	1	0
6	Public Assembly (church, restaurant, clubs, etc.) (FPU 100-199)	1	0	0
7	Schools and Colleges (FPD 200-299)	0	0	0
8	Health Care and Penal Institutions (hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, etc.) (FPU 300-399)	2	0	0
9	Stores and Offices (FPU 500-599)	3	0	0
10	Industry, Utility, Defense, Laboratories, Manufacturing (FPU 600-799)	0	0	0
11	Storage in Structures (barns, vehicle storage garages, general storage, etc.) (FPU 800-899)	0	0	0
12	Other Structures (outbuildings, bridges, etc.) (FPU 900-999)	2	0	0
13	TOTAL FOR STRUCTURE FIRES (Sum of lines 5 through 12)	82	0	1
14a	Fires in Highway Vehicles (autos, trucks, buses, etc.) (IT 131-132, 136-137)	7	0	0
14b	Fires in Other Vehicles (planes, trains, ships, construction or farm vehicles, etc.) (IT 130, 133-135, 138)	2	0	0
15	Fires outside of Structures with Value Involved, but Not Vehicles (outside storage, crops, timber, etc.) (IT 140, 141, 161, 162, 164, 170-173)	3	0	0
16	Fires in Brush, Grass, Wildland (excluding crops and timber), with no value involved (IT 142-143)	2	0	0
17	Fires in Rubbish, Including Dumpsters (outside of structures), with no value involved (IT 150-155)	6	0	0
18	All Other Fires (IT 100, 160, 163)	4	0	0
19	TOTAL FOR FIRES (Sum of lines 13 through 18)	106	1	0
20	Rescue, Emergency Medical Responses (ambulances, EMS, rescue) (IT 300-381)	2639	0	0
21	False Alarm Responses (malicious or unintentional false calls, malfunctions, bomb scares) (IT 700-746)	4486	0	0
22	Mutual Aid Responses Given	0	0	0
23a.	Hazards Materials Responses (spills, leaks, etc.) (IT 410-431)	54	0	0
23b	Other Hazardous Responses (arcing wires, bomb removal, power line down, etc.) (IT 440-482, 400)	17	0	0
24	All Other Responses (smoke scares, lock-outs, animal rescues, etc.) (IT 200-251, 500-699, 800-911)	397	0	0
25	TOTAL FOR ALL INCIDENTS (Sum of lines 19 through 24)	3699	1	0

2021 Statistics for the Lackawanna Fire Department

Runs per Station for 2021

STATION	# INCIDENTS
1 - Station #1	1198
2 - Station #2	1362
3 - Station #3	2149

Calls per Ward for 2021

WARD	# INCIDENTS
1 - 1st Ward	758
2 - 2nd Ward	1315
3 - 3rd Ward	1054
4 - 4th Ward	572

Calls per Platoon for 2021

PLATOON	# INCIDENTS
A Platoon	876
B Platoon	904
C Platoon	963
D Platoon	863

Calls per Month for 2021

MONTH	INCIDENTS
January	303
February	269
March	254
April	267
May	299
June	310
July	325
August	358
September	312
October	346
November	329
December	327

Calls per Day of the Week for 2021

DAY OF THE WEEK	# INCIDENTS
Sunday	547
Monday	538
Tuesday	513
Wednesday	511
Thursday	529
Friday	557
Saturday	504

ResponseTimes2021

APPARATUS	AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME, minutes (Dispatch to Arrived)
E1	4.60
E3	3.31
L-4	6.12
L5	6.65
L6	4.80
R2	3.27